

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Rock Climbing

Desired Experiences and Site Selection Considerations

Rock climbing on department land is an activity in which participants climb up, down or across natural rock formations. The goal is to reach the summit of a formation or the endpoint of a usually pre-defined route without falling. Rock climbing is a physically and mentally demanding sport, one that often tests a climber's strength, endurance, agility, and balance along with mental control. It can be a dangerous activity and knowledge of proper climbing techniques and usage of specialized climbing equipment is crucial for safe participation.

Rock climbing is an established, traditional recreational activity that may occur on department-owned lands and is consistent with the department's mission to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to the public. Rock climbing is allowed on department-controlled lands on natural rock faces in non-designated use areas unless posted as closed. Some rock climbing within non-designated use areas may be restricted due to impacts on natural resources or user conflict. Climbing on buildings, towers, boardwalks, or other department-managed structures or using such structures as anchors for ropes (i.e. fences, railings, and pilings) is prohibited. The department has developed guidance entitled "Rock Climbing Policy for DNR-Managed Properties (February, 2000).

Notable Differences in Participation or Opportunities Across the State

Rock climbing is available in many parts of the state, but the primary opportunities occur in the southern half of the state.

Notable Times of the Year of High or Low Participation

The months of highest participation are April through October.

Participation

Participation rates and frequencies were not evaluated in the 2016 survey of Wisconsin residents conducted for the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Survey work associated with the 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP found that about 3.8% of residents participated in the activity.

A recent study by the Department of Agriculture classifies rock climbing as a challenge activity and projects all challenge activities to see participation increases due to increased income and health. A majority of the climbing in Wisconsin is bouldering, which is a relatively easier entry for those new to the activity (Adventure Projects, Inc. 2018).



References

Adventure Projects, Inc. 2018. Mountain Project: Wisconsin Climbing. REI Co-op.
<https://www.mountainproject.com/area/105708968/wisconsin>

